

These restrictions allow politicians and IRS bureaucrats to influence medical decisions that should be made by a woman, her physician, family, and often with support and guidance from a spiritual leader. I strongly oppose any effort in Congress that creates government interference with private decisions that should be made between a doctor and a patient. I strongly oppose this war on women in America that threatens our freedoms and our rights.

Instead of focusing on this divisive agenda, we should be focusing on policies that will improve the lives of America's women and girls such as addressing the quality of women's health care, fighting gender discrimination, increasing economic opportunities, and providing them with the education and support to succeed.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose this bill and fight to keep safe, comprehensive reproductive and family planning services accessible to all Americans.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
MAYOR RALPH J. PERK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mayor Ralph J. Perk, the 52nd mayor of the City of Cleveland, as he is posthumously inducted into ClevelandPeople.com's International Hall of Fame.

Mayor Perk was born on January 19, 1914 in Cleveland, Ohio to Mary and Joseph Perk. He attended elementary school at Our Lady of Lourdes School. After earning his high school diploma, Mayor Perk studied history, political science and mathematics at Case Western Reserve University and St. John College. Throughout his adolescence Ralph worked as a pattern maker and later an ice peddler with his brother, George, at Perk Coal & Ice Co. In 1940, Perk married Lucille Gagliardi; they had seven children and were together for 59 years.

At the age of 20, Perk joined the 13th Ward Republican Club and in 1953 was elected as the ward's council member. During his five terms as the Broadway-E.55th Street councilman, Perk organized the American Nationalities Movement, an agency that represents 35 ethnic and nationality groups. Mayor Perk was an outspoken proponent of human rights and is well known for his celebration of cultural diversity. In 1962, Perk was elected as Cuyahoga County Auditor, and became the first Republican elected to county office since the 1930s. He was reelected twice and served as a county official until 1970.

Mayor Perk became the 52nd mayor of the City of Cleveland in 1971 and was reelected in 1973 and 1975. While in office Mayor Perk was instrumental in the creation and establishment of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the Office of International Trade at Cleveland's City Hall and the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Republican Mayors caucus. After serving as the Mayor of Cleveland, in 1978, Mr. Perk began a consulting business, Ralph Perk & Associates Inc. Mayor Perk was a political figure and prominent busi-

nessman in the City of Cleveland until his death on April 21, 1999.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mayor Ralph J. Perk as he is celebrated at ClevelandPeople.com's International Hall of Fame ceremony.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL KENT A. D. CLARK'S 24
YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NA-
TION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Kent A. D. Clark for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Lieutenant Colonel Clark will retire from active military duty in May 2011 after 24 distinguished years of service to the United States Army and of those years over 43 months were spent in combat.

Lieutenant Colonel Kent A. D. Clark is a resident of Florida and entered the United States Army in April 1987. He entered the Army and while serving his first enlistment decided to pursue a career in the United States Army by entering the Special Forces. He has served in every enlisted leadership position through the rank of Sergeant First Class and then pursued a career as a Commissioned Officer by attending Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, It has been a pleasure to work closely with Lieutenant Colonel Kent Clark over the last several years of his career. He has proven himself to be a tremendous wartime leader who demonstrated unselfish devotion to the Nation and the soldiers he led. He has been a friend and trusted advisor to my colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee as he worked tirelessly to restore balance to a force stressed by the demands of the war on terrorism. He was instrumental in significantly improving our Armed Forces equipment modernization and funding of critical systems affecting the Department of Defense while he served here on Capitol Hill. In 2010 Kent went back to the United States Army and Represented the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army as a liaison officer with the United States Congressional Appropriations Committees for Defense and Military Construction. Prior to his retirement he was the principal point of contact for Members of Congress and staff on matters concerning the Wheel Track Combat Vehicle Program, Brigade Combat Team Modernization, and Other Procurement Army One & Three Appropriations; He provided direct interface between Congress and the Army; Integrated the Office of the Chief Army Reserve staff and Congress for all United States Army Reserve related issues and questions; Gathered information, prepared strategies and recommended Army positions for corresponding with the Congress on appropriation issues; Organized briefings and responded to requests for information across all appropriations for Congressional Members, their staff and Professional Staff Members; Coordinated Congressional travel for fact-finding opportunities

and education on Army programs. The impact of his efforts will benefit the United States Army for decades to come.

Lieutenant Colonel Kent A. D. Clark's observations and advice to the Army leadership have impacted the decisions to implement the most comprehensive transformation of the Army since World War II, building versatile and modular units capable of conducting a full-spectrum of operations. This Commissioned Officer has continued the traditions of the United States Army and is an American hero who has been selfless in his service to the Nation through war, peace, and personal trial. His performance and accomplishments throughout his long and distinguished career have left a legacy of trained, disciplined professional leaders at all levels and care for families that is without equal. When history looks back at this leader and his legacy it will be clear that his abilities as a trainer, leader, advisor, Commander and Soldier produced the best Army in the world.

Mr. Speaker, On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Lieutenant Colonel Kent A. D. Clark for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout his distinguished career in the United States Army and we wish him, his wife Nicole, and his daughter Kaitlyn Grace all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge St. Raphael Catholic School, located in Garden City, Michigan, as they celebrate 75 years of commitment to the education of the youth of our community and our country.

Established in 1936 upon land generously donated by Ms. Florence Cowperthwaite, the meeting hall which became the first school was built using primarily donated materials, contributions and volunteer labor. The original windows were donated by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent. Undoubtedly, this demonstrates a literal truth; it is the people who build a parish.

Father Anthony Kirchner, the second pastor of the fledgling St. Raphael the Archangel parish, led the effort to convert the hall into a four-room school. Again, the labor and materials used were largely donated. The IHM sisters could no longer stay on and the Sisters of St. Francis agreed to take on responsibility for the school. They have remained diligent in their commitment. As the parish and the community grew, additional school buildings were built in 1950 and 1956. In its 75-year history, St. Raphael's School has grown from a converted hall serving a handful of students to a campus with a capacity of 500.

Mr. Speaker, for 75 years St. Raphael School has provided a Catholic education for students ranging from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students, parents, faculty and alumni of St. Raphael Catholic and in recognizing their years